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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/534,453	03/24/2000	Roger Cowles	AGOR-0001	3383

7590

01/30/2002

Robert P Bell
8033 Washington Road
Alexandria, VA 22308

EXAMINER

JASMIN, LYNDIA C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2167

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2002

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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A-G

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/534,453

Applicant(s)

COWLES, ROGER

Examiner

Lynda C Jasmin

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) ✓
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4, 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 33 is objected to because of the following informalities: the term "for" after "system" at line 1 should be deleted. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 22, 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 22 recites the limitation "the duty" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

In claim 27, at line 6, the recitation "a plurality of country specific systems" renders the claim indefinite since this limitation was already cited at line 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2167

5. Claims 1, 4 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maritzen et al. (5,987,429).

Maritzen et al. discloses and shows the method and system for total landed cost of a purchase based on initial cost of a seller item for an inter-country transaction (col. 6, lines 38-46) with the steps of: determining, from a database (transaction information database), trade costs associated with the purchase (at module 124), and adding the trade costs to the initial cost resulting in the total landed cost (col. 8, lines 13-20).

Maritzen et al also discloses the steps of displaying, though a network (Internet), the total landed cost (via operation 108) (col. 7, lines 25-32). Further discloses the steps where the item is a service/product (col. 7, lines 59-61).

Maritzen et al. does not explicitly disclose receiving a request from a requester through a network and displaying the cost of the transaction to the requester. However, the method and system of Maritzen et al. automatically processes in a computing system fees due from transactions (purchases) over the Internet to derive to the final cost due by a purchaser or the final cost a seller is to collect. This practice is well known in the electronic commerce environment.

Therefore, it would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have added the known step of requesting total landed cost on purchase item and then displaying the results of the computation though the internet to the process of Maritzen et al. for the purpose of facilitating calculation of fees due on purchase of products and services made worldwide made over the internet.

6. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 13-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maritzen et al. (5,987,429) in view of Boesch et al. (5,897,621), and further in view of Westrope et al. (5,968,110).

Maritzen et al further discloses the steps of receiving, through the network (Internet), an identity of a country the item is to be shipped from and an identity of a country the item is to be shipped to (transit locations shipment, via the shipping/delivery information object), determining tariff for the item and calculating value for duty to be added to the initial cost based on the country the item is to be shipped from and the country the item is to be shipped to (Figs 2B and 2C), and arriving at the total landed cost by adding to the total initial cost the value for the duty, the value added taxes, the tariff, and the delivery costs (via 108). However, Maritzen et al. fails to teach the currency type buyer and seller prefer, and the exchange rate calculation, and also fails to the electronic catalog for selection of items.

Boesch et al. discloses a method and system of receiving, from a requester through a network (50), currency type the requester (203) prefers and currency type the seller (303) prefers (via server 100), performing an exchange rate calculation using the initial cost of the item and the currency type the requester prefers and the currency type the seller prefers (col. 3, lines 21-36), and receiving a purchase order over the network (50), from the requester for the seller item, notifying the seller, through the network, the requester has agreed to purchase the seller item, and consummating a monetary exchange through the network (via the server 100).

Westrope et al. discloses a worldwide commercial business having a network coupling a plurality of country specific system (cross-border transaction system) with the steps of receiving item information through a network (45) into an electronic catalog (49), placing the item into categories based on national standard classification codes, and associating a country where the item resides to the item in the electronic catalog (col. 5, lines 39-60). Westrope et al also discloses the steps of returning, through the network, items within the standard classification code (col. 10, lines 47-62).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the computing process of Maritzen et al, to include the server taught by Boesch et al. for the purpose of settling transaction with risk associated with currency exchange rates, and to further to include the electronic catalog taught by Westrope et al. for the purpose of facilitating selection of item to be purchase from different countries.

As per claim 13, the method of comparing prices from different entities or countries is a well-known step in the business world and the Examiner takes official notice as such.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hodroff (5,592,376) discloses a currency exchange network system.

Westrope et al. discloses an interactive computerized catalog system.

Giovannoli discloses an improved interactive computerized electronic catalog system.

Goodwin, III discloses an electronic price label system, which is capable of displaying price information in terms of a plurality of different currencies.

Boesch et al. discloses a system of a multi-currency transaction between customer, merchant and a server.

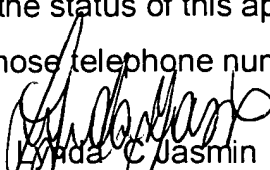
O'Neill et al. discloses a freight calculation system using a communication network.

Selleck is cited for disclosing a trading system and method for use on a global communications network.

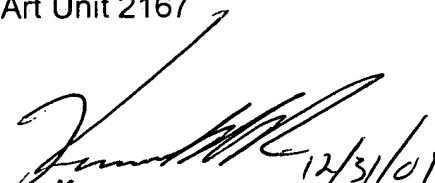
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lynda C Jasmin whose telephone number is (703) 305-0465. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (703) 308-5183. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7240 for regular communications and (703) 746-7240 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 305-3900.


Lynda C Jasmin
Examiner
Art Unit 2167

lj
December 28, 2001


Kenneth R. Rice
Primary Examiner
12/31/01